

Pre-conference

HACU 12th PreK-12 Higher Education Collaboration Symposium

Saturday, October 31, 2026

Gaylord Pacific Resort & Convention Center • Chula Vista, California



The **12th Annual PreK–12/Higher Education Collaboration Symposium** is a pre-conference event focused on high-impact collaborative practices among colleges, universities, school districts, and community partners that have led to meaningful systemic change. This year’s theme, “Enduring Pathways for Student Success: Nourishing Equity, Opportunity, and Alignment Across PK–12 and Higher Education,” highlights the importance of sustained partnerships that advance student success across educational systems.

The Symposium benefits higher education leaders, PreK–12 educators and administrators, and community stakeholders by providing opportunities to explore collaborative strategies, share promising practices, and build connections that empower communities to strengthen equity, opportunity, and alignment in education.

8:15 - 9:15 a.m.

Building Latinx Student Success Through Cross-Sector Collaboration: A Replicable Framework for Educational Equity

This session highlights an innovative cross-sector collaboration model designed to strengthen Latinx student success from PreK–12 through higher education. The San Diego County Office of Education’s Latino Advisory Council convenes educators, community leaders, families, students, and higher education partners to identify systemic barriers and develop collective solutions. Participants will explore the Council’s governance structure, advocacy efforts, and annual Latino Education Summit, while gaining a replicable framework for fostering community engagement, advancing educational equity, and improving college access, persistence, transfer, and completion outcomes for Latinx students.

9:15 - 10:15 a.m.

From Campus to Community: Empowering Global Scholars Through Collaborative Action

This interactive presentation explores Columbus Academy Global Scholars, an application-based high school program partnered with the Columbus Council on World Affairs. For three years, this collaboration has empowered students to present their Take Action Projects at a local university alongside 1,000 regional peers. Presenters will share stories of engagement among students, alumni, and community partners, supported by findings from the Harvard Flourishing Institute survey. Modeled after their campus "Lunch & Learn" format, this presentation demonstrates how PK-12, higher education, and community partnerships actively nourish equity, opportunity, and systemic change.

10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Equity in Action: Aligning Schools, Community College, and Workforce for Student Success

Middlesex College advances a comprehensive PK–12–to–workforce pipeline through strong partnerships with local school districts, community organizations, and employers. Early outreach, including ESL programming, middle school college visits, and family engagement, helps demystify higher education and supports college readiness. Additional supports such as enrollment navigators, high school registration days, and on-site financial aid assistance streamline transitions. Dual Enrollment, High School Scholars, and Summer Bridge programs build academic momentum and readiness. Presenters will also highlight how cross-sector collaborations align education with county workforce needs supported by superintendent roundtables and community advisory committees that promote shared accountability, degree and credential attainment, and long-term economic vitality and social mobility.

Noon - 1:15 p.m.

**Joint Professional Leadership Programs Luncheon
Leading for Student Success: Lessons from UC San Diego**

Chancellor Pradeep K. Khosla will share UC San Diego's approach to advancing student support and success through innovation, collaboration, and data-informed leadership. Drawing on institutional lessons learned, he will highlight strategies that strengthen student belonging, academic achievement, wellness, and career readiness across a diverse campus community. This keynote will explore how universities can build integrated support systems, foster inclusive excellence, and adapt to evolving student needs while preparing graduates to thrive in a rapidly changing global society.

1:15 - 2:15 p.m.

**From Classroom to Career: Building an Equitable College & Career Pathway System
Through a District-Community College Partnership**

San Diego Unified School District and the San Diego Community College District have sustained one of the nation's deepest PK-12 and higher education partnerships -- 14 years of joint board meetings, shared goals, and record-breaking student access. This session examines how SDUSD expanded dual enrollment to 6,088 students, scaled CTE articulation pathways, and closed equity gaps for Latinx and African American youth. Attendees will leave with a replicable framework grounded in policy alignment, shared data, and community accountability.